



# National Search and Rescue School

U.S. COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA 23690-5000  
(757) 856-2273, fax (757) 856-2242  
E-mail: [sar.school@langley.af.mil](mailto:sar.school@langley.af.mil)

26 March 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: SAR Coordinators, On-Scene Commanders, and Decision Makers

SUBJECT: Inland SAR Planning Course Schedule for Federal Fiscal Year 2004

1. The FY04 National Search and Rescue School Inland SAR Planning Course schedule is listed below. Also enclosed is a background paper on the course to help you select the best people to attend.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u> (specific locations are subject to change)	<u>Application Deadline</u>
04-01	20 – 24 Oct 03	MS – Grenada	12 Sep 03
04-02	17 – 21 Nov 03	KY – Frankfort	10 Oct 03
04-03	8 – 12 Dec 03	RI – Cranston	31 Oct 03
04-04	12 – 16 Jan 04	MN – St Paul	1 Dec 03
04-05	26 – 30 Jan 04	VA – TRACEN Yorktown	19 Dec 03
04-06	23 – 27 Feb 04	MD – Reisterstown	6 Jan 04
04-07	15 – 19 Mar 04	IN – Camp Atterbury	6 Feb 04
04-08	26 – 30 Apr 04	MT – Livingston	8 Mar 04
04-09	17 – 21 May 04	TX – Alvin (Houston area)	9 Apr 04
04-10	7 – 11 June 04	VA – TRACEN Yorktown	20 Apr 04
04-11	2 – 6 Aug 04	VA – TRACEN Yorktown	25 Jun 04

2. The Inland SAR Planning class is not for beginners. It is a "graduate-level" class for experienced on-scene decision makers, planners, operations leaders, and direct support staffs. It presents mathematically-based search planning tools with solid theoretical underpinnings, along with some allied topics, focused on improving overall SAR response and success, as noted on the attached background paper.

3. Openings in each class are limited and must be shared between a variety of agencies and student backgrounds, experience levels, and organizational tiers. While the school accepts applications directly, it is preferred the state or agency SAR Coordinator review applications to make certain he/she is kept abreast of what is happening in the state and to ensure the right people are selected.

a. Application deadlines are 45 days before class start dates and students must firmly commit to attend at that time. But, please don't wait: interested agencies should contact the school early to reserve quotas.

b. CAP members must apply through their wing training office to CAP National HQ only.

4. The classes are offered tuition-free to US citizens involved directly in SAR. However, each student or their organization is responsible for all personal expenses, travel, lodging, meals, etc.

5. For questions, registration information, or to discuss sponsoring a class in FY05 please contact the school at (757) 856-2273, by fax at -2242, or by e-mail to [sar.school@langley.af.mil](mailto:sar.school@langley.af.mil). You can also check the school web page at <http://www2.acc.af.mil/afccc/nss> for more information.

Sincerely,

Rollin S. Dixon, Lt Colonel, USAF  
Director, USAF National SAR School

*"Always Ready, That Others May Live"*



# National Search and Rescue School

U.S. COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA 23690-5000  
(757) 856-2273, fax (757) 856-2242  
E-mail: [sar.school@langley.af.mil](mailto:sar.school@langley.af.mil)

## INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANNING COURSE

(AFCAT 36-2223 course number E5AZG1C371-001)

The National Search & Rescue School was established in 1966 as a facility devoted exclusively to training professionals to conduct search and rescue (SAR). The school is currently located at USCG Training Center Yorktown, Virginia, and teaches a variety of maritime and inland search planning courses. Graduates number over 14,000 men and women, civilian and military, including over 1,400 from 103 foreign nations.

The 5-day Inland SAR Planning course is a comprehensive, graduate-level look at inland search theory and its application to land and air searches for missing persons and aircraft with a focus on wilderness, not urban, searches.

The course consists of classroom lessons and practical, tabletop exercises; the course does not incorporate field training. Emphasis is on the planning necessary for effective area-type searching during an extended search using Probability of Success (POS), rather than just a few elements of POC or POD, to predictively allocate limited resources to their best effect – in essence, what to do after the hasty search and specialty resources have not found the missing person. Additional topics include search area development, effort allocation, an overview of the NIIMS ICS, the federal role in SAR, and related subjects. The course does not teach search tactics or technical procedures, as those are well covered from other readily available sources.

The course is directed toward SAR leaders in federal, state, and local emergency services and law enforcement, as well as Civil Air Patrol, international, and volunteer SAR agencies -- those few people who are responsible for the planning and overall conduct of inland search missions. The target audience includes on-scene incident commanders and their planners, operations leaders, and up-channel reporting chain. The general searcher or search team leader, while arguably the most important part of the SAR team, would likely not find this course useful.

Aiming to "find the objective fast," the course centers on tools to help SAR decision makers determine where to search, how to divide an area between limited search resources, and how to craft the overall search effort to gain the best increases in likelihood of success at each step. The tools are mathematically based and not for the faint of heart; they help quantify the uncertainties of the search problem to allow consistent application throughout a mission.

Classes begin promptly at 0730 on the convening date and graduate by 1530 on the fifth day.

Prior to class, students should review and be conversant on the following from their own agencies in order to make class discussions more useful and help integrate class materials with their own search environments back home:

- o search pre-plans,
- o decision making guidelines for where/when/how to search,
- o agreements and relationships with other SAR agencies,
- o how their agency organizes on scene,
- o recent search missions.

A firm grounding in SAR terminology and employment techniques, practical SAR experience, basic arithmetic and calculators skills, an understanding of local SAR mission management requirements, and an open mind are essential.

NATIONAL SAR SCHOOL COURSE APPLICATION	
Requested Course Dates:  _____	<b>Full Name</b> _____
Location:  _____	<b>Title/Position</b> _____
E-mail application information to: <b><a href="mailto:sar.school@langley.af.mil">sar.school@langley.af.mil</a></b>	<b>Organization</b> _____
Mail and faxes also accepted at:  National SAR School (tsar) USCG Training Center Yorktown Yorktown, VA 23690-5000 757-856-2273, fax -2242	<b>Mailing Address</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ <b>Phone</b> _____ <b>fax</b> _____
	<b>E-mail address:</b> _____

*"Always Ready, That Others May Live"*